

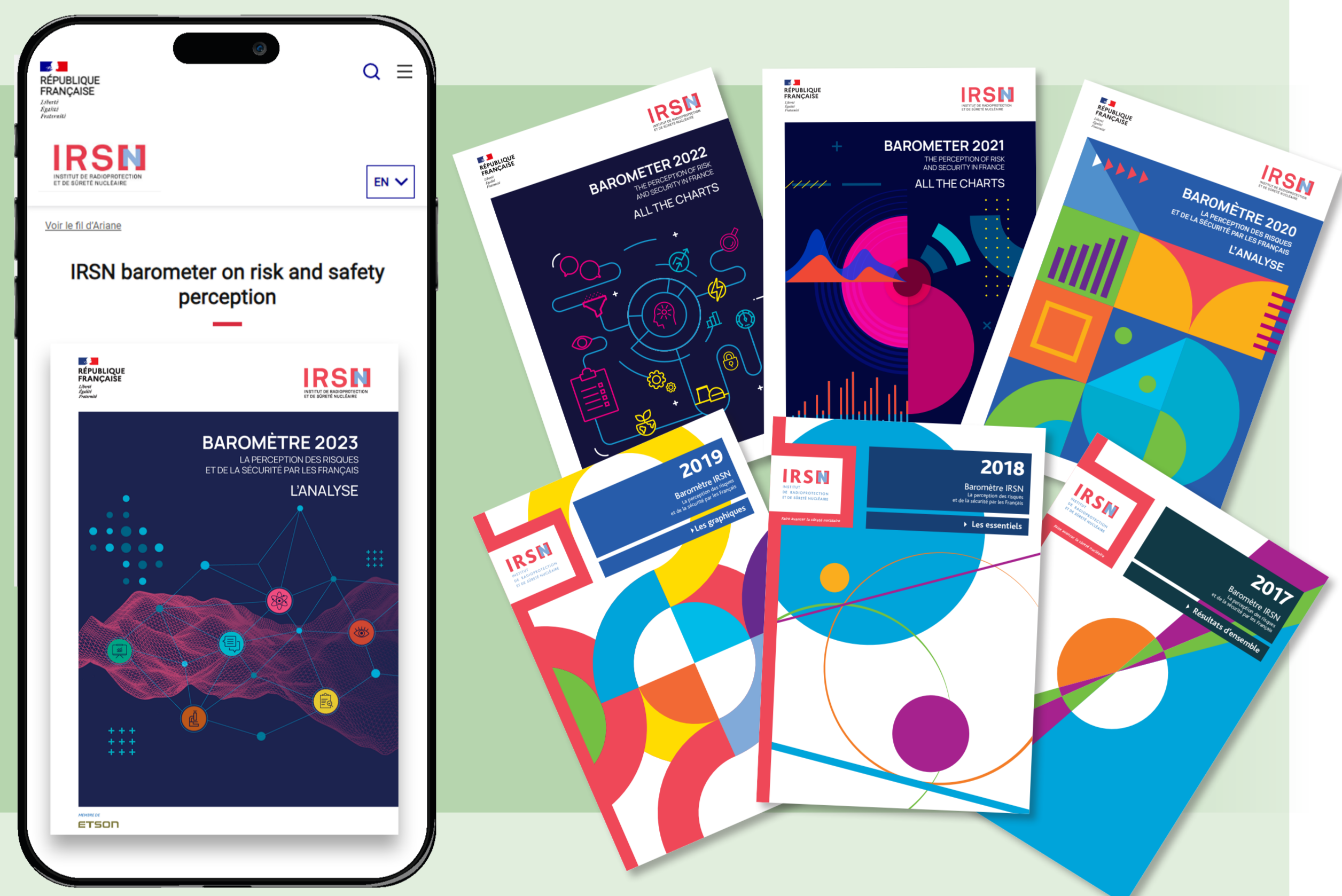
# NUCLEAR AND RADIOLOGICAL RISK PERCEPTION AMONG YOUNG PEOPLE IN FRANCE : ANALYSE AND EARLY PERSPECTIVES FOR ACTION

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## IRSN'S BAROMETER - CONTEXT

- /// A yearly study designed to follow the evolution of risk perception in France
- /// Conducted **since 1990**
- /// A core of questions kept from one year to another with minor additions and removals to ensure stability among the data
- /// Representative sample of French population (based on gender, age >18, socio-professional category and region)



## WHAT DO WE LEARN ABOUT RISK PERCEPTION AMONG YOUNG PEOPLE? DOES THEIR PERCEPTION DIFFER FROM FRENCH IN GENERAL?

### /// YOUNG PEOPLE:

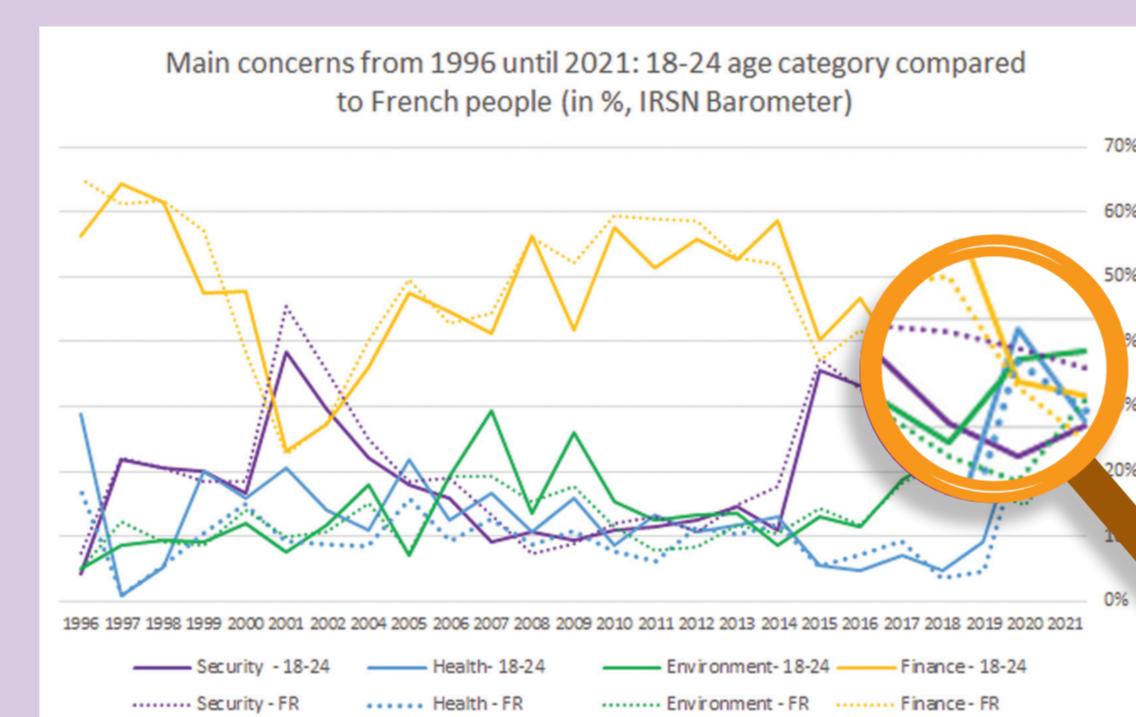
- More concerned about tomorrow's issues
- Different view on risks compared to previous generations

### /// A FOCUS ON 18-24 YEARS OLD:

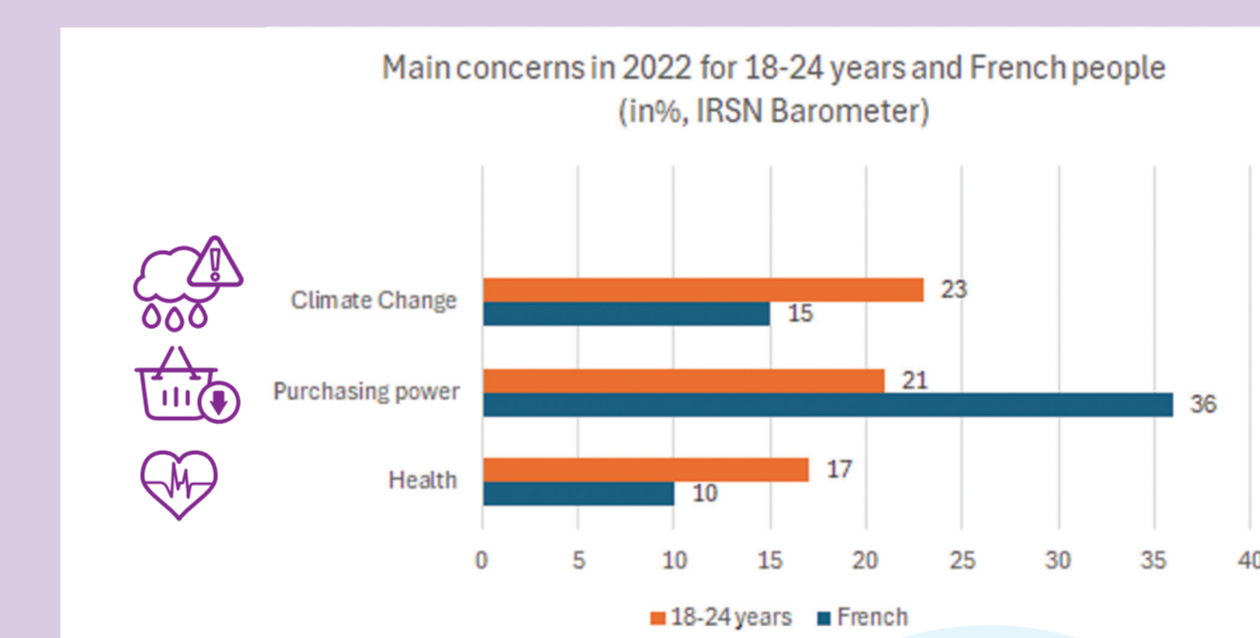
- 2 000 respondents for the whole French population (aged 18 to 65 and more) including 400 aged 18 to 24 (excluding 2020 and 2021 with 1 000 respondents)

## 5 TOPICS STUDIED:

### 1. CURRENT GENERAL CONCERNS



#### /// 2022: climate change in 1<sup>st</sup> position!



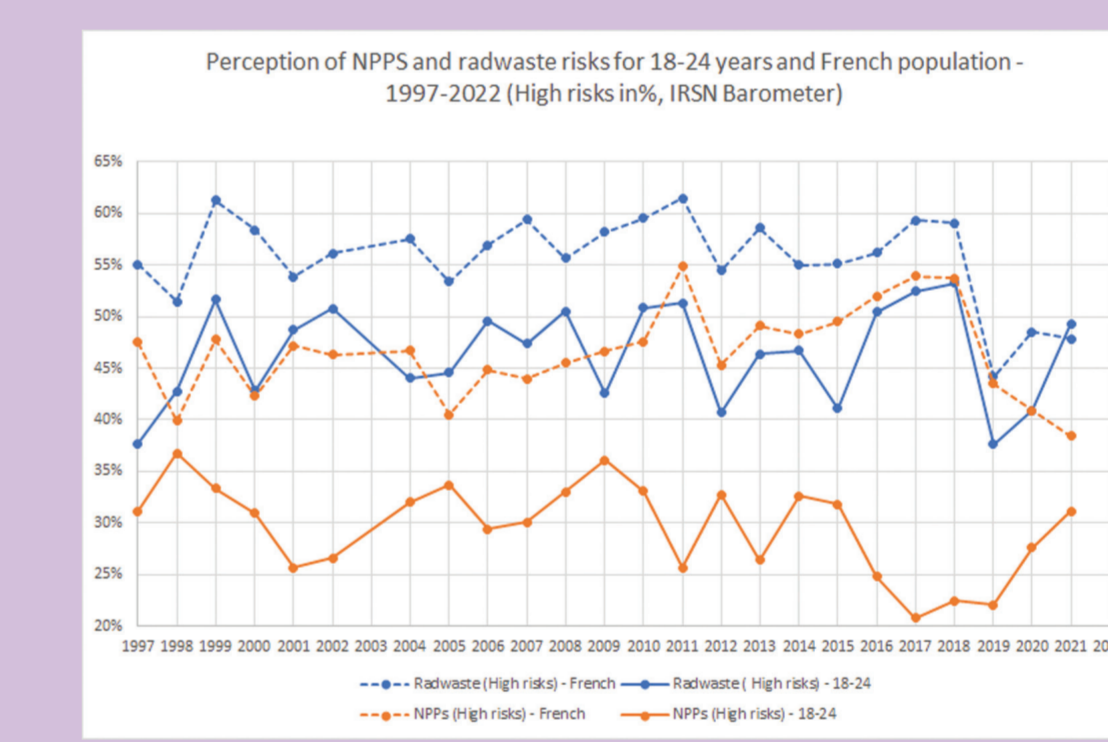
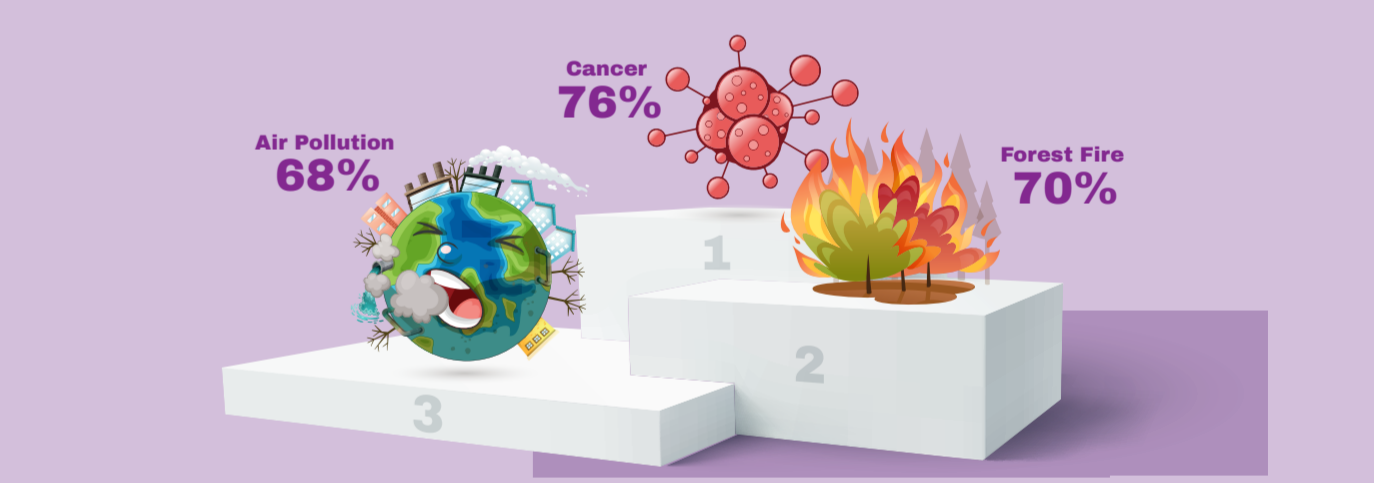
- These categories group together different types of answers. Security groups = Lack of security, = Traffic accidents, = Violence in suburbs, = Environment, = Climate change, = Environmental degradation, = Health, = QOC, = Pandemics, = Quality of medical care, = Finance, = Purchasing power, = Too high taxation.
- From 2014 till 2021: **increasing trend regarding environmental concerns** for the whole population
  - **Especially for 18-24 years old since 2019, more concerned by environmental issues than French people (+11 points in 2020)**

### 2. PERCEPTION OF VARIOUS RISK SITUATIONS (NUCLEAR AND RADIOLOGICAL RISKS)

#### /// 2022: TOP 3 Highest risk situations (among 32 risks) for 18-24 years



#### /// Compared to the Top 3 of French people



#### /// What's about nuclear and radiological risks perception?

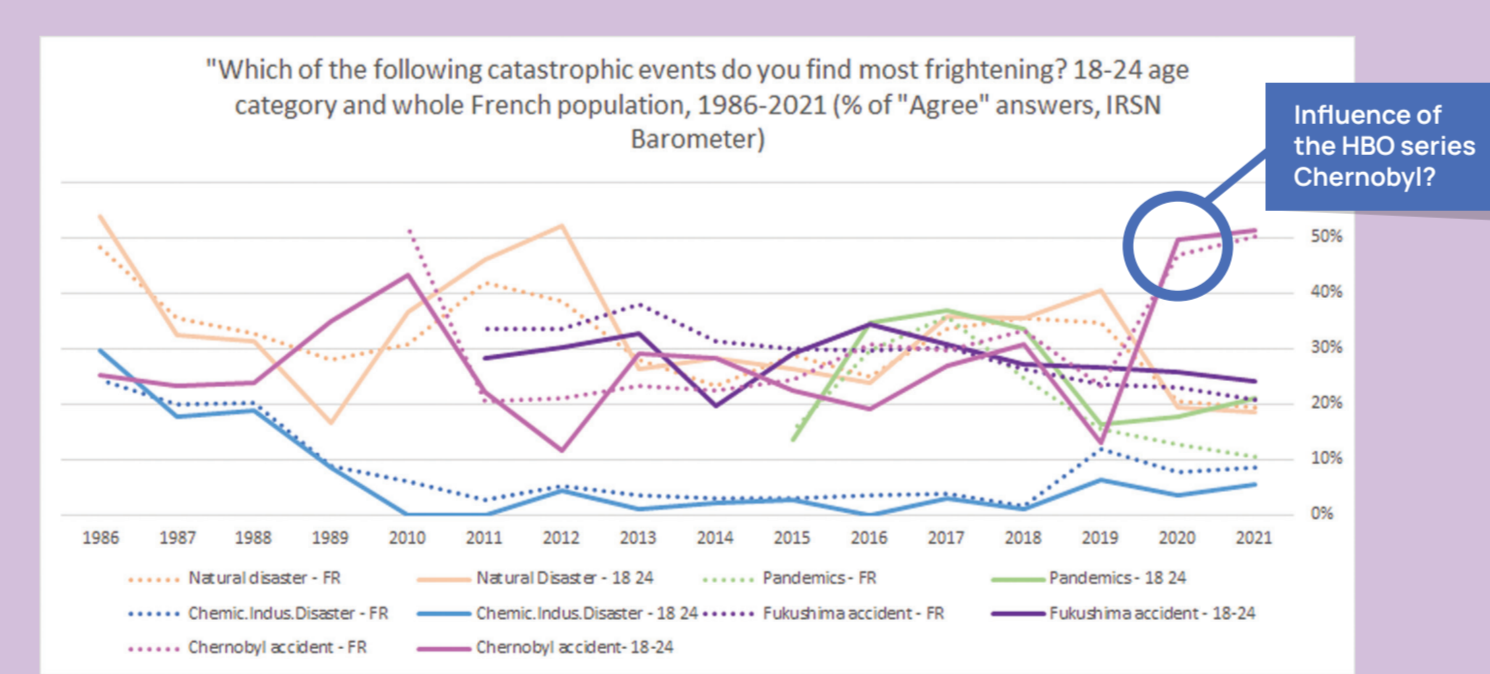
- NPPs & radwaste risks in the middle of the list for young adults and the whole French population
- A large lower risk perception for 18-24 years from 1997 till 2019...
- ...but the trend seems to be reversing over the last 3 years

On a regular, ongoing basis, risks associated to nuclear medicine and radon are situated at the bottom of the risk situations list for French and young people.

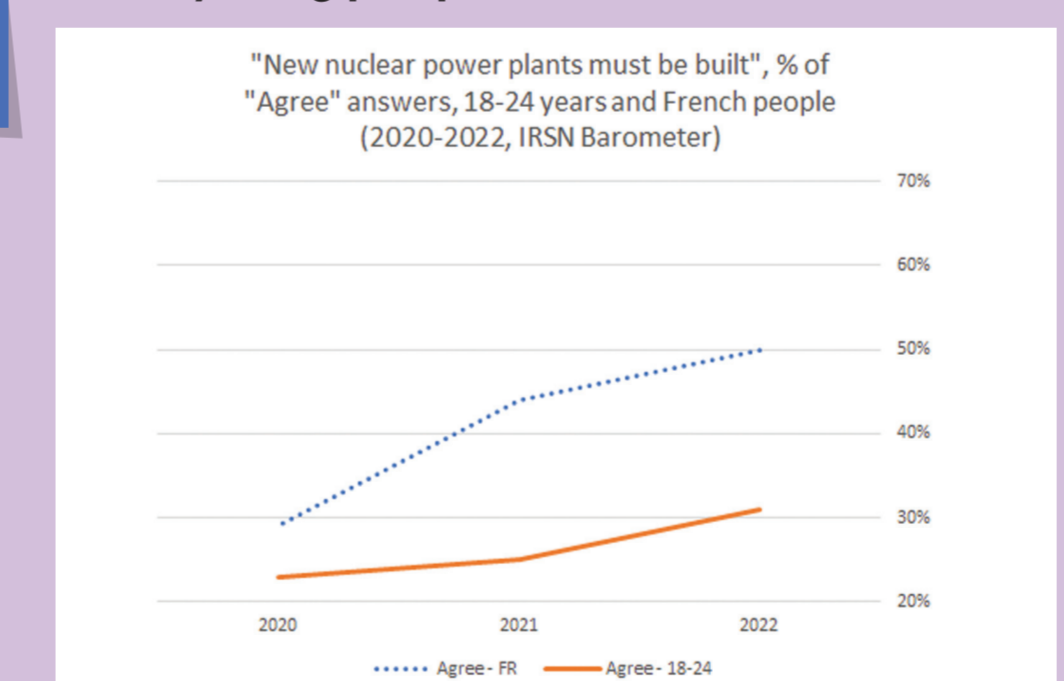


### 3. OPINION ON NUCLEAR & SAFETY MATTERS

#### /// Perception of nuclear energy among 18-24 years less positive than among the French people

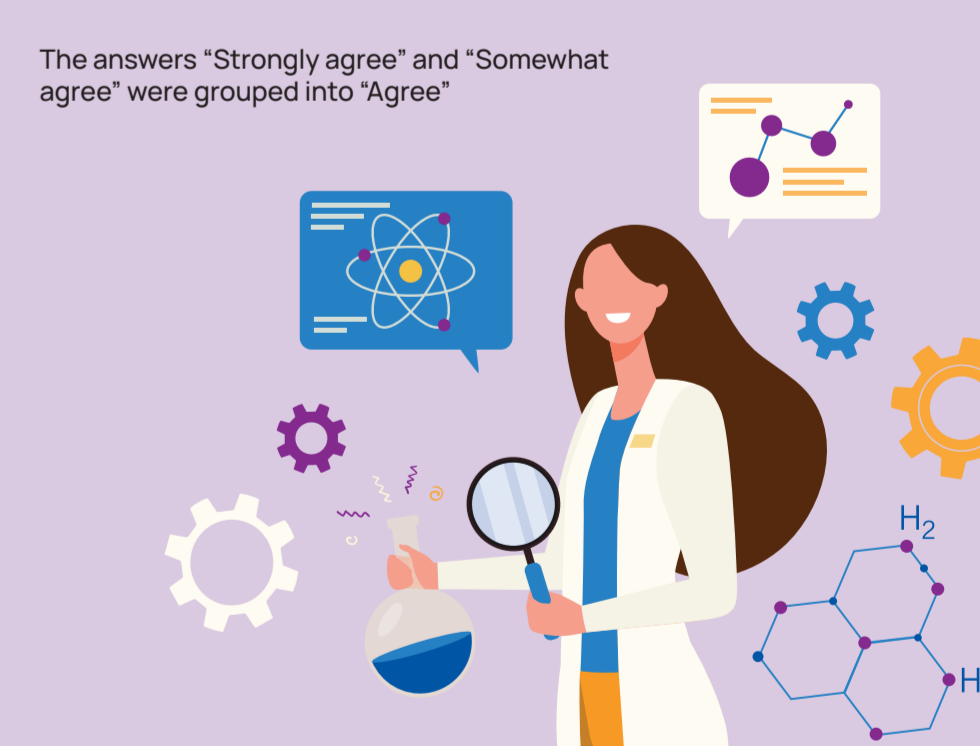
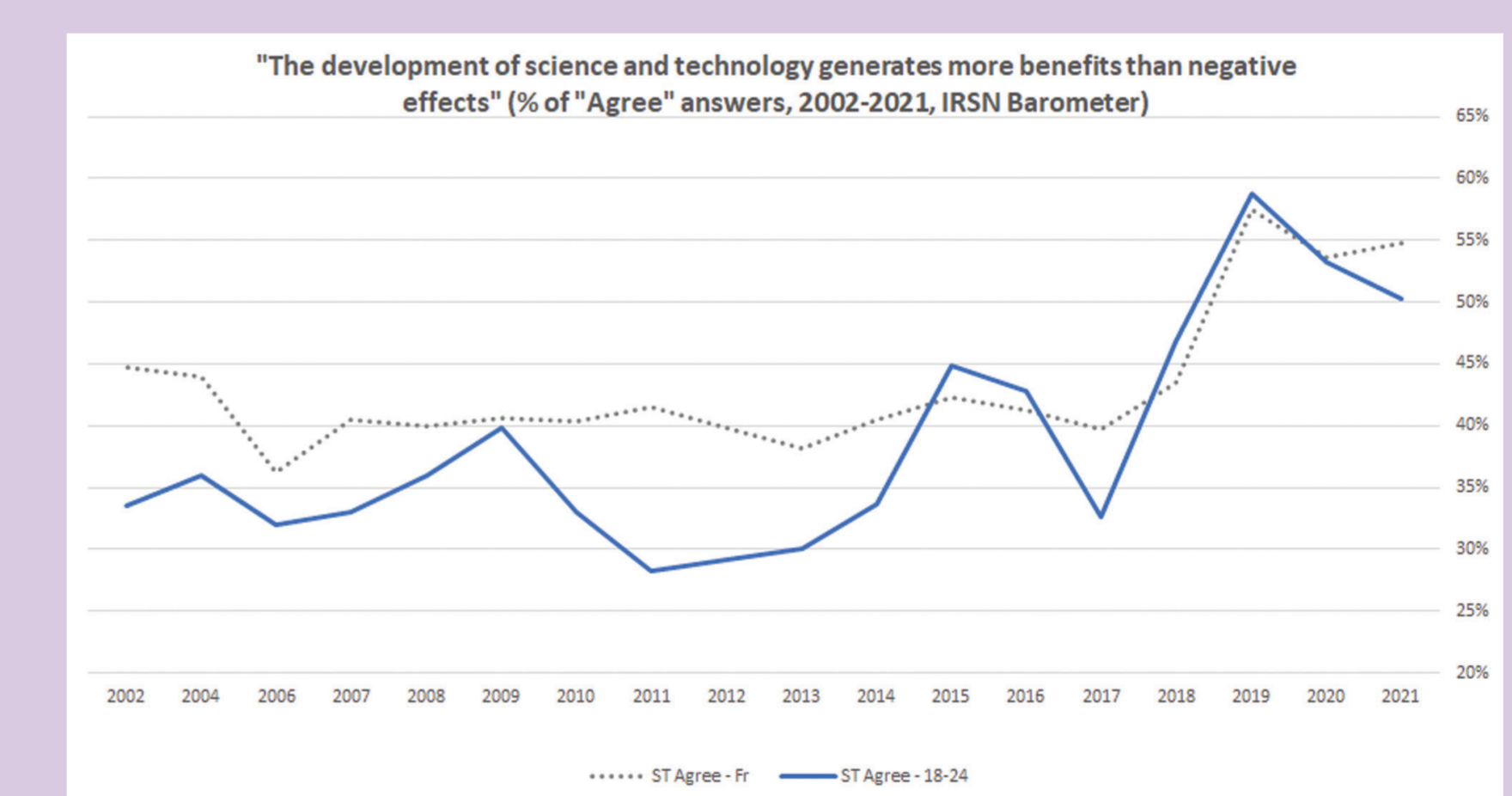


#### /// 2022: Main pros and cons nuclear energy for young people

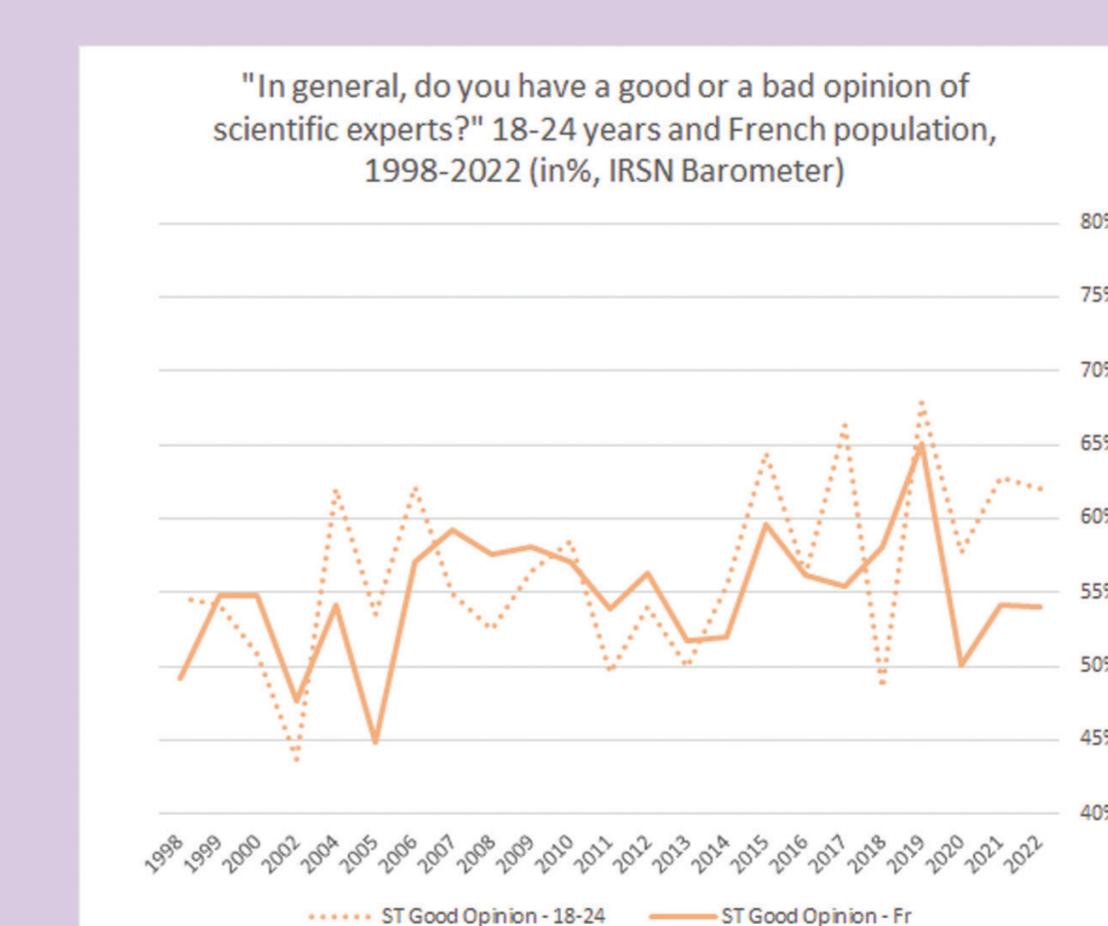


- Pros: 1<sup>st</sup>: Energy Independence, 2<sup>nd</sup>: Low energy cost
- Cons: 1<sup>st</sup>: Radioactive waste production, 2<sup>nd</sup>: Risk of accident

### 4. VIEW ON SCIENCE AND EXPERTISE



- A more critical point of view about the **benefits of science** until 2014 and an increasing positive trend (as French) till COVID-19
- **After the COVID-19 pandemic, 18-24 years maintain a more positive opinion of scientific experts**



The answers "Very good opinion" and "Good opinion" were grouped into "Good Opinion"

## CHALLENGES TO OVERCOME FOR IRSN:

### /// CONSTRUCT WITH YOUNG PEOPLE INFORMATION MATERIALS!

- Various registers (artistic, humorous,...), various formats (video, podcasts,...) in various social networks (Youtube, Twitch...)

### /// DEVELOP "YOUTH EXPERTISE"!

- Direct access to IRSN's experts and researchers, using fun toolkits as serious games, creating an open research laboratory for children and young people

### /// MOVE TOWARDS!

- Integrate IRSN's radiological/nuclear expertise into areas of interest to young people (climate change), physical or virtual places where young people discuss, seek information (Summer schools,...)

### 5. CITIZEN PARTICIPATION AND ACCESS TO INFORMATION

- **Fewer than 1 in 2 young people** expresses their willingness to spend time participating to information and consultation meetings on the management of a high-risk installation near their home (similar to the French population)
- Among the young people **24%** would be ready to **participate once a year and 23% several times**

- Among the reluctant ones:
  - 1<sup>st</sup> cause: Feeling that other people are more competent
  - 2<sup>nd</sup> cause: Lack of time

**IN TERMS OF PARTICIPATION: GO BEYOND PUBLIC MEETINGS!**

